

Meredith faculty and staff,

As we wind down for the year, I wanted to make sure that you had the latest information about Meredith's COVID-19 entrance testing requirement for 2021. **Students, faculty, and staff must provide notice of a negative PCR test before being approved to come to campus in January.**

The test should be taken within five days of your expected return to campus. This requirement aligns with the best information we have available right now about limiting the spread of COVID-19 on campus, especially when used in conjunction with face coverings, physical distancing, and frequent hand washing.

We understand that this requirement may be a burden for some, and we have worked to reduce that burden by building some flexibility and choice into this mandatory process:

- You may test at a site of your choosing. Testing costs are paid at 100% by Blue Cross Blue Shield North Carolina, CIGNA, and most other insurance carriers (although there may be a small administrative fee charged at some clinics). **Through December 31, 2020**, no doctor's order is needed for member cost-sharing to be waived for COVID-19 testing (unless the test is performed in an emergency room and urgent care). At this time we don't know if this will be extended. Working on a residential campus also qualifies you for free testing at some sites. There are also many free testing sites available where tests are administered without any out-of-pocket costs. A list of currently available [North Carolina State Testing Locations](#) can be found on the NC DHHS website.
- You can either submit your results directly to the Office of Human Resources at hr@meredith.edu or upload them to a secure system that our tech services team will have online by December 30. For your own privacy, **do not submit results directly to your supervisor or any other campus personnel.**
- As of yesterday, all supervisors have been provided guidance for planning coverage for the first week back so that, to the extent possible, testing for most employees can occur during work hours.

I urge you to read the [FAQs](#) on the Staying Strong site now to make sure any questions you have about the requirement get answered before the break starts at 5 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, December 18.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation with Meredith's community standards.

Sincerely,
Jo Allen, '80